



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25643
20 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1993* FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The President, the Prime Minister and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations have recently sent letters to the President of the Security Council in which they have arbitrarily, and without any evidence, accused Yugoslavia, the Serbian side and some leaders for events that have not taken place or for acts that have not been committed by them.

The fact that Croatia is increasingly resorting to such practice precisely at this moment - which is characteristic of its overall behaviour but which is not fitting in international diplomatic practice - and that this is done by its highest representatives can be understood only in the light of two elements. First, Croatia has no arguments to justify its aggression against the Republic of Serbian Krajina in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs), sector South, its continued armed provocations in sector North, its attacks on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the border with Montenegro and its military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Secondly, Croatia has launched a propaganda offensive in order to cover up and warrant preparations for a major aggression against the territories of the Republic of Serbian Krajina and the Republic of Srpska and possibly against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In this context, I wish to call your attention to some of the facts.

In his letter dated 19 March 1993 to the President of the Security Council, the Croatian Prime Minister did not deny at all the true and substantiated information on armed attacks by Croatian troops against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on its border with Montenegro. The UNPROFOR monitors and their headquarters have received full information about these incidents. Therefore, he has used the old divide et impera trickery by mentioning the alleged differences of opinion among representatives of Montenegro, Serbia, the federal authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Army of Yugoslavia. The objective is to lead the international public to believe in the absence of unity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e. in the aggressiveness of the highest federal authorities and the Army of Yugoslavia, allegedly dominated by Serbs.

* Received by the Secretariat on 20 April 1993.

Regarding the letter from the Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in which he referred to an alleged interview by Col. Stojan Spanovic to the Slovene daily Delo on 22 March 1993, I have to recall that Col. Spanovic denied that he had ever been interviewed by any of its journalists. It is a sheer fabrication, unfortunately also referred to by Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman himself in his letter to the President of the Council dated 24 March 1993 (S/25468, annex).

President Tudjman's main intention is to persuade international factors that an aggression is under way in Croatia and that "the Belgrade authorities are involved" in it, and to urge an emergency Security Council meeting. In doing so, Croatia is clearly counting on a benevolent attitude of the Security Council and of some other international factors towards its past behaviour in flagrant violation of its decisions.

The reality, however, is quite the opposite. The Croatian aggression in sector South began on 22 January and is still on, and Security Council resolution 802 (1993) has not been implemented to date. The position taken by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been clear and consistent. We have never taken and will never take steps that would disrupt the peace process and undermine the activities of the United Nations, although Croatia has flagrantly violated the Vance plan and all the commitments under this peace-keeping plan.

As I said earlier, the whole propaganda "scam" of the Croatian side is designed to play low key on their true intentions, namely on a massive offensive on the Republic of Serbian Krajina, the Republic of Srpska and on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We are in possession of credible information that Croatia has been amassing 50,000 troops or 15 brigades, in addition to five 15,000-strong brigades already engaged in the aggression in sector South, for its attack on the areas under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia.

Taking into account that Croatia has 45,000 to 50,000 regular troops in former Bosnia and Herzegovina, that Presidents Tudjman and Izetbegović recently signed a military agreement, that President Tudjman said that "the lost territories must be regained by force", as well as the statements by the Croatian soldiers who defected and some specific preparations that have been speedily undertaken, it is beyond doubt that both Croatia and the Croat-Muslim coalition in former Bosnia and Herzegovina are preparing for a massive aggression and an all-out war. Lt. General Lars-Eric Waahlgren, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), has been more fully informed about the deployment and preparation of the Croatian forces.

I deplore that some Council documents and recent moves by other international factors have not helped bring about an end to war and a peaceful settlement of the problems in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but objectively bring in force and encourage the Republic of Croatia and the Muslim forces loyal to Alija Izetbegović to impose their will upon the Serb people by force. They ignore that the use of force is not the way to achieve a just solution to the problem and to ensure a lasting peace in this region. I am confident therefore that the Council will not fail to take urgent steps to make it clear to all factors concerned, in particular

the parties to the conflict, that the world Organization can only mediate a negotiated and peaceful settlement of problems.

Continuing to show great respect for the authority of the United Nations and for its Security Council, I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the Council and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
